



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

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Farrington High Student Wins Best of Show in Hawaii's 2005 Junior Duck Stamp Contest

"Nene," by 18 year-old Mario Baluan of Honolulu, won Best of Show in the 2005 Hawaii Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest and will represent Hawaii in the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest in Washington, D.C. Mario, a Farrington High School senior, used colored pencils to create his illustration of two nene.

Julia Cost, a Seabury Hall student from Kula, Maui, was first runner up in the Hawaii contest with her oil painting of a nene entitled "Sunning on Haleakala." Mutsumi Kanzawa, a student at Waiakea High School in Hilo, was second runner up with a colored pencil entry also entitled "Nene."

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest is modeled after the long-standing Federal Duck Stamp Contest used to design the nation's annual migratory bird hunting stamp. Federal Duck Stamps are a required purchase each year for waterfowl hunters 16 years and older. Junior Duck Stamp proceeds support conservation education in the United States.

"The Hawaii Best of Show entry was selected by a panel of five judges from 100 entries submitted from students throughout the islands," said Sandra Hall, Hawaii's Federal Junior Duck Stamp coordinator. "The majority of the students were in group one, which is kindergarten through third grade." In addition to Mario's Best of Show ribbon, he will receive various art supplies and a 70th Anniversary Federal Duck Stamp Collection print donated by Ducks Unlimited.

State "Best of Show" winning designs are sent to Washington, D.C., where a panel of five judges chooses three national winners. The Junior Duck Stamp Contest national winner receives a \$5,000 cash award and a free trip to Washington, D.C., along with the art teacher, a parent and the state coordinator to attend the First Day of Sales Ceremony. The second place winner receives a \$3,000 cash award, and the third place winner receives a \$2,000 cash award.

For more information on the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program and Design Contest, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Office at 792-9530.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.